

County Approves Type III Sabin Vaccine

Los Angeles County Medical Assn. will proceed with plans to sponsor Type III Sabin oral polio vaccine clinics Feb. 3 and 10 because it is convinced that any possible risk involved is far less than the risk of non-immunization in this potentially epidemic area.

Four other Southland county medical associations have decided to sponsor clinics on the same days, thus concluding the mass immunization program launched Oct. 21. San

Diego County will hold its final clinic Sunday, Feb. 10. CLINICS will be open for persons of all ages, with children most susceptible to the ancient scourge, especially urged to participate.

The LACMA Council adopted the recommendation of its public health committee, which "voted unanimously to go ahead because health authorities at every level have agreed the so-called risk involved is far less than the proven risk of

going without immunization," according to Dr. Reginald H. Smart, chairman of the committee.

He said persons of all ages are being offered Type III vaccine because Southern California traditionally has been a "hot-bed" of polio and is therefore a high-risk area under the Dec. 20 definition issued by Dr. Luther L. Terry, U. S. surgeon general.

THE FEDERAL report

which urged communities to administer all three types of Sabin oral vaccine "with particular emphasis on children and young adults," also recommended use of Type III vaccine for adults in "higher-risk" categories, including those in "epidemic situations."

A similar recommendation came from the State Department of Health, Dr. Smart noted.

Dr. Smart also pointed out

that Canada has resumed use of Type III Sabin vaccine, after temporarily halting the program last year to investigate four cases of paralytic-type diseases reported following the administration of 4 million doses of tri-valent vaccine, which contained all three Sabin types in one.

IT TURNED out, he explained, that two of these cases were not polio, and of the re-

maining two, only one was "compatible" with the giving of the vaccine—that is, possibly related because of the coincidence of being given within a few days of the onset of the disease.

In the United States, of 15 million doses of Type III vaccine, only 11 similarly "compatible" or questionable cases have been reported, of which eight were persons over 30, according to Dr. Smart. It still

is not known whether all 11 are actually polio or some other disease.

Such "associated" cases nationwide amount to less than one for each million doses, whereas the Los Angeles County 1962 total was 41 cases of polio, or seven cases for each million population.

"WE BELIEVE," Dr. Smart said, "that Sabin oral polio vaccine is as safe as the vaccine

produced to combat any other disease."

Dr. Richard L. Taw, president of LACMA, cited the surgeon general's report that no individual case of polio has been "proved" to be caused by the vaccine.

Approximately 3 million county residents took Types I and II vaccine—on a sugar lump, paying a 25 cent token donation, where possible, but none being turned away for inability to pay.

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